



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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July 6, 2000

Inquiry: Who may legally perform a pulse OX test on a patient in a patient's home and to whom would one report an illegal act such as the above?

Response: The performance of pulse oximetry testing on a patient in a patient's home constitutes the practice of respiratory care, as defined in the Respiratory Care Practice Act (RCPA). The RCPA recognizes overlapping functions between other licensed and trained persons. Consequently, other licensed persons may be functioning within their scope of practice when performing pulse oximetry. The question of whether the performance of pulse oximetry is authorized by a particular licensee, other than a respiratory care practitioner, should be submitted to the licensing board regulating the particular practice.

Reference # 2000-C-30